

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16839

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, GW, WB, UR, GE, COMECON

SUBJECT: FRG NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN USSR

REFS: (A) BONN 9647 (NOTAL), (B) BONN 10450,
(C) USBERLIN A-109

SUMMARY: FRG BONN GROUP REP HAS INFORMED ALLIES THAT
BILATERAL FRG/USSR NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT IS
VIRTUALLY DEAD. PROBABLY RELUCTANT TO MEET BONN'S
DEMANDS REGARDING INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN, AND
APPARENTLY BOWING TO PRESSURE FROM THE GDR AND OTHER
EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE SOVIET UNION HAS
PROPOSED "AN ENTIRELY NEW PROJECT" WHICH SKIRTS THE
BERLIN ISSUE AND TURNS THE PROJECT INTO AN FRG/COMECON
MATTER. NO AGREED POSITION YET EXISTS WITHIN THE FRG
GOVERNMENT ON THE NEW PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

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1. AT THE OCTOBER 14 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP

(LUECKING) INFORMED THE ALLIES THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY REAL POSSIBILITY FOR A BILATERAL FRG/ USSR ELECTRIC POWER DEAL. LUECKING STATED THAT WHILE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE FRG HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION "AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL," INCLUDING IN THE BREZHNEV-SCHMIDT CHANNEL, THAT THE USSR HAD INITIALLY AGREED TO THE PROJECT, SERIOUS PROBLEMS LATER DEVELOPED. BREZHNEV LATER TOLD THE CHANCELLOR THAT THE GDR HAD CREATED CERTAIN PROBLEMS FOR THE USSR; THE FRG RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS IN OTHER HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS.

2. LUECKING SAID THE SOVIETS HAVE NOW PROPOSED WHAT AMOUNTS TO "AN ENTIRELY NEW PROJECT" WHICH IS NO LONGER BILATERAL, BUT TRILATERAL (FRG/USSR/GDR), AND IS BEING TERMED BY THE SOVIETS AN FRG/COMECON ARRANGEMENT. THE POWER WOULD COME FROM A NUCLEAR PLANT TO BE BUILT BY THE FRG IN THE USSR, TRANSMITTED BY COMECON LINES ACROSS THE GDR (COMMENT: APPARENTLY THE GRID REFERRED TO IN REPAIR), WITH A GDR HAND THUS ON THE SWITCH. ROUTING OF THE POWER FROM THE SOVIET UNION THROUGH THE GDR TO THE FRG VIA WEST BERLIN HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED. IN THE FRG-USSR TALKS HELD SO FAR (BY ECONOMIC EXPERTS) THE SOVIETS HAVE ONLY STATED THAT THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN RAISES POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

3. LUECKING SAID THAT THE FRG IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING THE NEW SOVIET PROPOSAL, AND NO AGREED INTERNAL FRG POSITION HAS YET EMERGED. ON THE ONE HAND, SOME FRG OFFICIALS ARE STILL SAYING THAT THE FRG SHOULD INSIST ON A BILATERAL FRG/USSR ARRANGEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT BUT, SAID LUECKING, THIS IS NO LONGER A REAL POSSIBILITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME FRG OFFICIALS SEE NO REASON WHY A TRILATERAL PROJECT SHOULD BE MORE DANGEROUS TO FRG INTERESTS PROVIDED THAT THE KEY QUESTION OF POWER ROUTING IS ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH. LUECKING ADDED THAT A BASIC QUESTION UNDERLYING THE INTERNAL FRG DEBATE IS WHETHER IT IS A GOOD IDEA FOR THE FRG TO MAKE SUCH A DEAL "WITH COMECON." LUECKING CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID SOME OF THE POWER DELIVERED TO THE FRG WOULD COME FROM COMECON AND NOT FROM THE ENVISAGED NUCLEAR PLANT (THERE WOULD APPARENTLY BE A TRADE-OFF WITHIN COMECON.)

4. LUECKING CONCLUDED BY SAYING WHILE NO FRG POSITION HAS YET BEEN AGREED, BONN MAY TELL THE SOVIETS THAT IT IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE NEW PROJECT IF CERTAIN

CONDITIONS (E.G., THE ROUTING OF POWER, THE INCLUSION
OF BERLIN, AND CONTROL OVER THE POWER) COULD
BE FULFILLED.
HILLENBRAND

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